Africa, Separate Traders &c. 1723. C. 6

The unavoidable Conſequences of a Trade to Africa, *in a Regulated Company, as propoſed by the Separate Traders, demonſtrated.*

I. IT ſubjects the Trade, and the Management thereof, to the *Arbitrary* Power of a few Deſigning Men; and yet puts it out of *their* Power, to preſerve it, or carry it on, to the Advantage of the Kingdom.

II. It ſubjects the *Britiſh* Traders, to all the *Hardſhips and Impoſitions*, the barbarous Natives of *Africa* pleaſe to put upon them, and for which they can have no Redreſs.

III. It gives an Opportunity to the *Dutch African Company, and other Foreign Rivals* in that Trade, by confederating with ſome, and over-powering others of the Natives, totally to intercept and hinder the Trade of the *Britiſh* Subjects.

IV. The *Britiſh* Subjectswill, hereby, be totally diſcourag'd from proſecuting this Trade, and the Plantations have no other way of ſupplying themſelves with Negroes, *but by purchaſing them of the* Dutch *and other Foreigners*, at ſuch Rates as they *pleaſe* to impoſe upon them.

Theſe Conſequences are evident from the following Reaſons.

1. The Managers of this New Company are to make ſuch *Laws, Orders, and Rules, and under ſuch Mulcts and Penalties*, as they ſhall think fit.

2. Not having a ſufficient Stock under their immediate Management, nor Goods ſufficient in the Settlements, under the Direction and Diſpoſal of the Governours abroad, their Agents and Governours there, can never be able to ſupport the *Britiſh* Intereſt, or to have any Reſpect, Influence or Power over the Natives, equal to that of other *European* Nations.

3. The barbarous Natives will become Maſters of the *Britiſh* Traders, and *impoſe* upon them, in the Prices of their Slaves and Gold, what they pleaſe, and never ſuffer them to make any *Inſpection or Improvements* in their Country.

4. The Advantages to the *Dutch* and *French*, by Excluding the *Britiſh* Traders, are ſuch as will encourage them to ſpare no Coſt, nor Induſtry, or Power, to compel the Natives to join with them in doing of it.

Theſe being the Facts, to be conſider'd, it may be proper to add ſome Remarks upon a Paper, Printed and Delivered by the Separate Traders, in ſupport of their Bill: As,

1. By falſly and audaciouſly *Aſſerting*, that his late Majeſty King *Charles* the Second, granted this Company's Charter, by the influence *of a Bribe of Ten Thouſand Pounds given to a Court-Lady*; When it is notoriouſly known, by Perſons now living, and that were Subſcribers, that it was with Difficulty, that the Court obtain'd, from *Noblemen, Merchants, and other Perſons*, a Subſcription to ſupport the *African* Trade, then *ſunk*, and under the moſt *diſcouraging Circumſtances*, as the Preamble of their Charter expreſſes.

Quere. Can this ſcandalous Treatment of their Prince, be any Inducement to this Honourable Houſe of Commons, to inveſt the Authors with the Power and Management of the *African* Trade?

N. B. It is not to be wondered, that theſe *Malicious Incendiaries* ſhould ſo *falſely aſperſe the Managers of the Royal African Company*, when they ſtick not to do the ſame thing to their *own Sovereign Prince.*

2. As

2. As to the Suggeſtions of the Separate-Traders, on behalf of Sir *Nicholas Criſp*, it is well known, and has been made out to the Satisfaction of the Houſe, by a *Worthy Member*, that Sir *Nicholas*'s Family has had ample Satisfaction, for what related to him, in the Grants made by his Majeſty, and which his Family enjoys to this Day.

3. The Separate-Traders know very well the Company's Property to be *Indiſputable*, and otherwiſe than what they falſely aſſert; And

That the Company have many Poſſeſſions, Iſlands, Forts and Settlements, and Commands of whole Countries, for which they pay no Ground-Rents or Acknowledgments; And that, for the others, for which they do pay a ſmall Acknowledgment, it was only by way of *Purchaſe*, in Conſideration for Ground on which Forts were firſt Built; and the Contracts with the Natives were always for the *Sole-Trade* of their Countries to be brought to the ſaid Settlements; And the Natives always were, by the Company's Agents, forcibly called to an *Account*, when they made Infringments, *or carried the Trade elſewhere:* Neither do theſe Acknowledgments, in any wiſe, *Invalidate* the Company's Property to the Settlements, and to the Trade of the whole Country, both which are their Purchaſe.

4. The Supply of Negroes to the *Planters*, by this Regulation, is of the *leaſt* Conſequence to theſe Separate-Traders: *No Stock* is provided and appropriated for that End; The Planters, under the Subjection and Rules of theſe Arbitrary Separate-Traders, may go to *Africa*, to purchaſe the Negroes they want, be it Three, Four, or Ten Negroes Yearly; But ſhall have no Proſpect of a certain Market at home to ſupply themſelves, but by Applying to the Separate-Traders to ſupply them, *not on Credit to be ſure*, but by paying the Money down firſt to the Separate-Trader at his own Price, before he ſets out his Ship to *Africa*.

N. B. If the Terms of this Bill, as it ſtands, were put to the Deciſion of the Real Planters, 'tis not reaſonable to imagine that Two Perſons in Five Hundred, would conſent to have their Eſtates *ſubjected*, by a Law, to ſuch an obvious Oppreſſion.

It is therefore humbly hoped, the Patriots of our Country, will have no Regard to thoſe falſe Inſinuations of the Separate-Traders, nor be influenced by them, to ſubject this Trade to ſuch fatal Conſequences.

The Deſtructive Conſequences of a *Regulated* Trade to *Africa*, as promoted by the SEPARATE TRADERS.

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